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Date Sent: December 23, 1960

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FROM: Amembassy MOSCOW

TO: Secstate WASHINGTON

NO: G-421

REF: Embassy's G-689 of April 27, 1960

DEC 30 12 28 PM '60

On December 20th a representative of the TASS Fotokronika office in Moscow, which has been supplying the Embassy with TASS news photos twice weekly since April 1960, informed the Embassy employee who regularly picks up the photos that TASS would no longer be able to sell photos to the Embassy.

A call by the reporting officer on the following day to a Deputy Director of TASS Fotokronika, added little explicit information on the reason for the stoppage. The Deputy Director, who has known the reporting officer since the Embassy began buying TASS photos eight months ago, merely said that TASS is a news agency and as such has relations only with other news agencies, that it exchanges photos with UPI and AP, and that the Embassy could obtain any photos it needed from those agencies or from Edwin Smith - Soviet Photos in New York.

The reporting officer said he appreciated this suggestion, but pointed out that it would involve delays and merely complicate a mutually satisfactory arrangement which had now been functioning smoothly for nearly a year. The reporting officer noted that the US libraries which receive TASS photos prefer direct arrangements when they are possible and acceptable to the suppliers. If this were no longer possible, the Embassy could only express its regret and hope that a resumption of the relationship might be possible in the future.

The Deputy Director said he could only repeat that TASS exchanges photographic materials with AP and UPI and to refer the Embassy to those organizations, or to Edwin Smith in New York.

In parting, the reporting officer expressed his appreciation for the cooperation shown by TASS in the past. The Deputy Director laughed and suggested that the reporting officer "drop by" again in the future.

COMMENT: Embassy would appreciate any information available in Washington which may indicate reason for stoppage. Specifically, have Soviet Embassy or TASS suffered any rebuffs recently in overt attempts to obtain US photographic materials?

PASmith, Jr./cmg

THOMPSON

(LSBrady) vps

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